THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) As per information received from Gujarat Electricity Board, 3 phase power supply through rural feeders is programmed for 10 hours a day and power supply is being given accordingly.

(c) and (d) Supply to various categories of consumers in Gujarat is the responsibility of the Government of Gujarat and Gujarat electricity Board. The supply to various categories of consumers is made taking into consideration the overall power supply position. The priority to be accorded for various category of consumers is also decided by the State Government. The state Government is taking steps to improve power generation including involvement of the private sector in generation.

Dispute between NTPC and DESU

1417. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether government are aware of acute shortage of power in the capital for the last two months; if so, the reasons therefore;

(b) what is total power requirement of the capital per months as on date and how that is being met; and

(c) whether it is a fact that apart from theft of electricity, a dispute between NTPC and DESU is attributed to shortage of power supply in the capital; if so, what immediate steps are being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The energy shortage in the National capital Territory of delhi was 4% and 6.6% during the months of december, 1996 and January, 1997 compared to 1.7% energy shortage during the month of November, 1996. This was due to increased energy requirement during winter season, partial shutdown of HBJ Gas platform for maintenance by ONGC during January, 1997 (resulting in low power generation by Gas based stations in Northern Region) and a number of grid disturbances during the months of december, 1996 and January, 1977.

(b) The total energy requirement of delhi during January, 1997 was 1212 MU net and the total availability from the Badarpur Thermal Power Station (managed by NTPC), the Central Power Stations of Northern Region besides Delhi's own generation was 1144 MU.

(c) It was decided by Government in October, 1996 that future supply of power by Central Power Sector Utilities should only be against advance payment or irrevocable letter of credit. However, taking into consideration the adverse financial condition of Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (DESU), implementation of this decision was deferred till 31.12.1996 in the case of National capital Territory of Delhi. Since DESU did not make full payment of current dues of Badarpur Thermal Power Station (BTPS) and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) regulation of power to Delhi was enforced on 1 2.1997.The position was again reviewed in a meeting on 10.2.1997 and it was decided to withdraw regulation of power and that the shortfall in payments made by DESU to BTPS and NTPC for the period 1st January, 1997 to 30th April, 1997 will be adjusted against the dues payable by Central Government to NCT of Delhi. The Government of NCT Delhi has given an undertaking for effecting the adjustment and for making full payment of current dues of BTPS and NTPC from 1st May, 1997.

Medium capacity private Power Projects in Maharashtra

1418. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) The number of new medium capacity power Projects with Private